



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

(RCW 34.05.310)

CR-101 (710/97)

Do **NOT** use for expedited repeal or adoption

**Agency:** Agriculture

**Subject of possible rule making:** The state department of agriculture is proposing to amend chapter 16-157 WAC to increase organic certification fees and to revise organic standards to be compliant with the National Organic Program.

**(a) Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject:** Chapter 15.86 RCW

**(b) Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:**

The state department of agriculture's organic food program is required by statute to collect fees to cover the cost of the program. Fee increases are necessary in order to cover the costs of the program. The legislature authorized the department to increase fees in excess of the fiscal growth factor.

The organic food program was audited on July 9-11, 2002 to determine compliance with the National Organic Program. It was determined that the state organic standards are not fully compliant with the National Organic Program and need to be amended to fully comply with the National Organic Program.

**(c) Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:**

The United States Department of Agriculture is implementing the National Organic Program. The state department of agriculture is working with the USDA National Organic Program to coordinate changes to the state organic rules so that they are compliant with the federal program.

**(d) Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

☐ Negotiated rule making

☐ Pilot rule making

☐ Agency study

☒ Other (describe) The agency is developing the proposal in coordination with the Organic Advisory Board.

**(e) How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:**

(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

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Comments should be made by September 20, 2002

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**

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**SIGNATURE**

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